

every part of the State was that they should come to a decisive vote and submit their labors for inspection. He hoped this order would be passed, and begged to announce that he would at the proper time propose an additional rule that on the third reading of any article, no member should speak longer than five minutes, nor more than once on the same subject, unless by unanimous consent. He was informed by his friend on his right, (Mr. Vansant,) that in Congress it is the general rule of the committee of the whole that no speech, even on great appropriations, shall exceed five minutes, except when in committee on the state of the Union. It occurred to him that it would be better to adopt some such rule of business, so as to bring their labors to as speedy a close as practicable.

Mr. Ritchie could see no reason why, at this late day of the session, any change should be made in the rules.

Mr. Vansant said as the rules stood now, it was in the power of any nine members, by resorting to what is known in parliamentary parlance as filibustering, to delay action almost at their pleasure. The Convention should look seriously into this matter. The progress of this Convention had not been more rapid than that of the Convention of 1864, which was composed of contending parties. But nine reports have been passed to a third reading, and none have been taken up on that reading. Several reports have not even been taken up on their second reading. The legislative report has been held in abeyance on account of one particular section. On this feature there had been three distinct votes of the Convention, and it was hard to tell how many more would be taken. He was of the impression that all the business could better be transacted in Convention, and could see no possible good to grow out of going into committee of the whole.

Mr. Nelson was as anxious as any member to get through as soon as possible, but rather than their labors should go out to the people in a crude state he would prefer to remain here for six months. There were gentlemen here whose minds were so clear that they understood everything, and could vote without the aid of discussion, but he was one of those unfortunate people who